

Wellspring Speaker Bios

A Pierce County native, Executive **Bruce Dammeier** attended Curtis High School before going on to graduate with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy and serve eight years as a Civil Engineer Corps Officer. While on active duty, he was deployed on humanitarian relief missions in the United States and across the world. At the conclusion of his military service, he returned to Washington State and became a dedicated community volunteer. Bruce and Lauren, his wife of more than 35 years, live in Puyallup. They have three grown sons.

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Biju George serves the Authority as Executive Vice President, Operations and Engineering. In this capacity, he is responsible for the performance management of all operations and engineering work. He participates in the implementation of the Authority's strategic plan and works with the Executive Vice President, Finance and Procurement in overseeing the development of operating budgets and operating policies. Additionally, Mr. George reviews divisions' operational and financial performance and meets with department heads to discuss the feasibility of strategic initiatives.

Mr. George represents the Authority at Board of Directors' meetings, congressional meetings and meetings with the general public as needed. He also assists the General Manager in developing and implementing the Authority's business plans.

Mr. George joined the Authority from Greater Cincinnati Water Works, Metropolitan Sewer District and Stormwater Utility, where he was the Deputy Director of Water and Sewers. In that position, Mr. George provided strategy for all wastewater, stormwater and drinking water operations. Mr. George also served as the drinking water utility's interim executive director from 2011 to 2013. Mr. George was principally involved in the integration of three utility enterprises (wastewater, stormwater and drinking water) into a unified enterprise.

Mr. George has more than 27 years of diversified technical and management experience. He is recognized as a leader in treatment technology and science, and is both published writer and a frequent speaker, and the past Assistant Superintendent of the 240 MGD Mill Creek

Plant. More recently, Mr. George was principally involved in building a public sector contracting service that now generates \$10 million in revenue, and has helped Greater Cincinnati Waterworks maintain an AAA rating, despite difficult economic times.

Mr. George is the 2014 recipient of the Innovator of the Year Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. George has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the PDA College of Engineering at Gulbarga University. He is a licensed professional engineer in Ohio.

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Dr. Bruce E. Rittmann is Regents' Professor of Environmental Engineering and Director of the Biodesign Swette Center for Environmental Biotechnology at Arizona State University.

His research focuses on the science and engineering needed to “manage microbial communities to provide services to society.” Services include generating renewable energy, cleaning water and soil, and improving human health.

Dr. Rittmann is a member of the National Academy of Engineering; a Fellow of AAAS, WEF, IWA, and NAI; and a Distinguished Member of ASCE.

Dr. Rittmann was awarded the first Clarke Prize for Outstanding Achievements in Water Science and Technology from the NWRI, the Walter Huber Research Prize and the Simon Freese Award from ASCE, the G.M. Fair Award from AAEEES, and the Perry L. McCarty/AEESP Founders Award. He is the co-winner of the 2018 Stockholm Water Prize.

Dr. Rittmann has published over 720 journal articles, books, and book chapters, and he has 16 patents. With Dr. Perry McCarty, Dr. Rittmann co-authored the textbook Environmental Biotechnology: Principles and Applications (McGraw-Hill Book Co.), with a second edition available in early 2020.

Dr. Joel Baker is the Science Director of the [Center for Urban Waters](#) and leads UW's [Puget Sound Institute](#). His research centers about the transport of organic contaminants in the environment, specifically atmospheric transport and deposition, the dynamics of contaminant transport in estuaries, and modeling the exposure and transfer of bioaccumulative chemicals in aquatic food webs.

He teaches courses in water quality modeling, environmental chemistry, and quantitative methods.

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Heather Bartlett has over 25 years of natural resource and public health experience and a degree in biology from Washington State University. She has a track record of working through complex and controversial issues. She came to Ecology in March 2014 from the state Department of Health, where she was deputy director of field operations for the state drinking water program.

Most of Heather's previous public service career was at the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, where she started her career as a fish biologist. While there, she managed a large eastern Washington fisheries district, served in several supervisory positions in the fisheries program, and was the division manager for the Washington state hatcheries system when she left Fish and Wildlife to join the team at Health.

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Aaron Clark is an environmental scientist with experience conducting, communicating and applying scientific research for the support of healthy, functioning ecosystems. As the Director of Strategic Partnerships, he focuses on building an interdisciplinary network between communities, policy-makers, businesses, architects, engineers and planners. He received a B.A. in biology from Reed College and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Washington; he worked as an environmental consultant and landscape designer before joining Stewardship Partners. Aaron is driven by a belief in the positive impact that humans can and do have on the environment through restoration and stewardship. Aaron serves as the Steering Committee Chair for the [Green Infrastructure Partnership \(GrIP\)](#) and leads the annual [Puget Sound Green Infrastructure Summit](#).

Bill Dickinson: After leaving federal service, Bill was a founding board member of the Center for Watershed Protection, now nationally recognized as

an authoritative source of research based information and techniques regarding urban watershed management. As a Director on the Board of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (12 years), Bill was Chairman during a three-year period of agency change, growth and restructuring. Now known as NOVA Parks, the system is a collaboration of three cities and three counties operating 34 open space and historical properties comprising 12,000 acres. It is one of the most self-sufficient park systems in the US with 82% of its operating costs self-generated.

Appointed a trustee of the Virginia Land Conservation by VA Governor Mark Warner and reappointed by Governor Tim Kaine, he served for eight years during which VA took major steps toward conserving natural open space land to advance environmental protection goals.

In 2012, he was appointed to the Board of Alexandria Renew, a regional advanced waste-water treatment system serving about 350K people in Alexandria and adjoining Fairfax County. He was unanimously reappointed to this position in February 2016. Currently he is Secretary Treasurer of Renew as it accepts from the City of Alexandria responsibility for constructing, financing and operating a combined sewer overflow remediation project. This project is mandated by state law to be completed by 2025 with a probable cost of up to \$500M.

In March 2017, he was appointed by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe to the Citizens' Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council where he serves as Chair of their storm-water and land conservation subcommittee.

Bill's is primary focused on citizen engagement and education, special district finance, governance, transparency and accountability.

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Jason Jordan was named the Port of Tacoma's environmental programs director in February of 2011. In July of 2014 he was also asked to lead the Port's planning group resulting in a new title of Director of Planning and Environmental Services. Prior to the director's position, he served as an environmental programs senior manager from July 2008 to February 2011. With the formation of the Northwest Seaport Alliance, Jason's role spans both the Homeport of Tacoma and the Alliance.

Before joining the Port of Tacoma Jason served as an environmental program manager at the Port of Seattle for 2 years and as a land use

planner for 2 years. Prior to the Port of Seattle, he worked at the City of Renton and the City of Bainbridge Island, where he focused on current planning, project development, SEPA review, and shoreline development projects.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from Western Washington University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Washington State University.

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Dane Madsen is a startup and early stage operational specialist focused on tech and water with over 40 startups in his background in all roles including founder, CEO, angel and venture investor, Director, consultant and advisor. As a global executive with a successful background in investment banking, financial management, venture capital, and in water chemistry and infrastructure remediation he has led many firms in application of leading technologies to solve big problems.

Madsen has surveyed and consulted in nearly 500 water companies, facilities, and service suppliers in North America, China, EU, and UK over the past 14 years. Madsen is Managing Director, PureBlue Capital, a soon to be launched seed stage investment fund.

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Dr. Stefano Mazzilli leads partnership development for the PureBlue's Aqualyst Business Accelerator and is a mentor to this year's Cohort 2 companies. He is a technical leader with more than 20 years of experience in water pollution and resource planning, assisting governments, institutions and NGOs to adopt and apply new technologies for improved decision making. Before coming to Seattle and working on Aqualyst, he was previously engaged in oceanographic monitoring and modelling efforts in East Africa, with UN agencies and the University of Cambridge.

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Don Megrath has over 25 years of experience in board, finance and operational roles in several industries and disciplines, including finance, IT, strategic planning and implementation, operations, investment banking, business development and corporate development. He is CFO at Focal Technologies, Inc. an Oregon-based early stage company that has a compelling solution that remediates harmful contamination with little external power requirements, emissions or material ongoing operational costs.

Harnessing UV energy and heat from the sun, Focal Technologies' Ray system disassociates organic pollutants from liquid or solid waste. At VectorPoint Ventures he applies his extensive experience in advisory services to early and later stage companies, working with family office investors, seed through growth stage investing, fund management, operations, entrepreneurship and finance.

Earlier in his career, he founded technology and media start-ups, held key management positions in public and private companies, including VP Finance, COO, CFO and board director. Don is a member of the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network and the Keiretsu Forum Angel Investment Group, where he has served as a volunteer President of the Portland, Oregon Chapter for several years. While he has studied at OSU and PSU, he completed BA and MBA university work at George Fox University. Don, his wife and two sons live in the Portland, Oregon area.

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Ryan Mello has served as the Executive Director of the Pierce Conservation District since 2012. Ryan's real job is "Chief Relationship Officer" for the Conservation District - ensuring we have the best staff to perform this important work and they have the resources necessary to be successful, our many stakeholders understand our role in the system and our partners are supported in a meaningful way with our assistance. When Ryan isn't engaged in conservation work at the District, he is serving as a member of the Tacoma City Council or gardening, walking his dogs, hiking, biking or kayaking Puget Sound.

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Holly Powers is a Senior Program Officer at The Russell Family Foundation, where she is responsible for the Foundation's program-related grantmaking which spans environmental sustainability and conservation, grassroots leadership development, education, and youth/young adult homelessness. She has been recognized by the Center for Whole Communities as a "Leader Reimagining Conservation" and completed a national fellowship program, "2042 Today," which trains environmental leaders to engage communities in a rapidly changing American society. Holly holds a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Washington and focused her thesis on women's roles in the environmental justice movement. Holly sits on several Tacoma-based nonprofit boards and committees.

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Matt Rose is co-founder and CEO of APANA, a technology company providing Water Efficiency as a Service for commercial, industrial, and smart city applications. APANA is a leading developer in Low Power Wide Area IoT solutions and analytics services that operate in over 600 cities globally. Customers such as Costco Wholesale and Fetzer Winery save over 20% on water consumption using APANA's technology.

Matt has an executive background in operations, including technology new product development, within Healthcare and Wastewater Treatment. He is now leading APANA's growth phase and continued expansion of its services worldwide.

In May, APANA received the '2019 IoT Startup of the Year' award at the IoT World conference in Santa Clara CA.

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Ellen Southard has 29 years' experience in the green building industry. She was an early adopter of building and site certifications and a founding member of Cascadia Green Building Council. Her firm Site Story has worked with Salmon-Safe for 9 years as the organization's alliance partner for urban projects and leading their program in Puget Sound. Salmon-Safe offers a series of peer-reviewed certification and accreditation programs linking site development and land management practices for the protection of agricultural and urban watersheds. Salmon-Safe's development standards set the goal of elevating environmental performance through design and construction to ongoing operation. Ellen has been a consultant to many local governments working on green building policy, parks and open space projects; eco-tourism and codes and incentives for green infrastructure. In 2016 Ellen was named Sustainable Seattle's Community Hero. She volunteers for Girl Scouts of Western, is an Oxfam America Ambassador and a member of the Puget Sound Partnership Environmental Caucus.

Since 2016 Ellen has served as the Project Manager for the Greenbridges project facilitating efforts to advance permitting pathways for public private partnerships and convening the design, construction and fund-raising team to build the first bioswale/GSI Greenbridges Project under the Aurora Bridge.

John Stark is the Director of the Washington Stormwater Center in Puyallup, Washington. He is also a full Professor and conducts research in

ecotoxicology at WSU Puyallup. Dr. Stark earned a B.S. degree in Biology from Syracuse University (1978), a B.S. degree in Forest Biology from SUNY Syracuse (1978), an M.S. degree in Entomology from Louisiana State University (1981) and a Ph.D. in Toxicology from the University of Hawaii (1987). Dr. Stark's research interests focus on protection of endangered species and ecological risk assessment of pollutants with particular emphasis on salmon and aquatic invertebrates. He teaches courses in toxicology. Dr. Stark has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers in scientific journals, numerous book chapters and a recent book on ecological risk assessment entitled Demographic Toxicity: Methods in Ecological Risk Assessment. He is also a member of the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel (2007-present).

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Jennifer States is a Business Development Manager and Senior Consultant for DNV GL – Energy North America. Her current focus areas include sustainable maritime innovation, ferry electrification, as well as renewables, storage and microgrids. She brings 20 years of renewable energy and clean tech experience in industry, non-profit, government and research environments. She has worked in WA State for 10 years, including Port of Port Angeles, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Her greatest accomplishments include launching of a start-up in advanced materials recycling, the implementation of renewable energy policy, and driving development of renewable energy and storage projects across the US.

She is currently the Washington Maritime Blue Project Manager and has been leading communications, stakeholder engagement, and strategy implementation efforts for the WA Department of Commerce. In addition to her work for DNV GL, she serves as City Councilor for the City of Sequim, WA and is the co-owner of Wind Rose Cellars, a small winery operated by her husband.

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Dr. Dan Thompson is the manager of Wastewater Operations for the City of Tacoma Public Works Department of Environmental Services Division. He has 30 years experience in the environmental field including

18 years in water, wastewater, and Biosolids management. Dr. Thompson has a bachelors in forest management from Washington State University and a Masters and PhD in Silviculture from the University of Washington.

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Erin Rothman Over her 13 years of environmental consulting experience, the inherent frustrations of stormwater management have inspired Erin to see the simple in the complex. Founding StormSensor has channeled this creative inspiration and made her realize she just wants to fix it.

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Founder and Executive Director, **Ryan Vogel**, a graduate of University of Washington's Michael G. Foster School of Business brings a lifetime education of entrepreneurship and leadership to Pure Blue. Featured in Forbes 30 under 30, High Country News' 10 People under 30 Changing the West, and nominated for Geekwire's 2015 Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

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Connie Bacon is a graduate of Syracuse University, she later received a master's degree from The Evergreen State College. Bacon is a former executive director of the World Trade Center Tacoma and served eight years as special assistant to former Washington Governor Booth Gardner.